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Adm. Raborn to Head CIA

The state of Texas, which has never been accused of suffering from an inferiority complex, has two more reasons to pat itself on the back.

The General Dynamics Corporation at Fort Worth has been granted a contract for production of 431 of the controversial TFX fighter planes, at a cost of "more than 1.5 billion dollars." That's a big contract, even in Texas.

Citizens of the Lone Star State may also derive satisfaction from the President's appointment of VICE ADM. WILLIAM F. RABORN JR., USN, retired (a native Texan), to head the Central Intelligence Agency. The CIA has been controversial ever since it was created by the National Security Act of 1947.

Although ADM. RABORN'S appointment is currently a matter of some controversy, his confirmation is confidently expected. The admiral retired two years ago to become a vice president of the Aerojet-General Corporation. The president of Aerojet said at the time that RABORN had been taken into the company because of his demonstrated "ability to get tough jobs done in the shortest possible time."

There is no question as to RABORN'S competence as an intelligent, popular, dynamic and resourceful naval officer.

Burly, jovial, a master of the kind of pep-talk that inspires subordinates to dedicated action, he became known during his directorship of the Polaris Missile program as the originator of PERT, "Program Evaluation Review Technique." He had been chosen for that critical assignment by ADMIRAL ARLEIGH A. BURKE, then Chief of Naval Operations, not only because of his naval record, but because "he was a nice person who got along with people when the going got tough."

Whether these admirable characteristics qualify him to make decisions as chief of the agency charged with co-ordinating the farflung intelligence activities of the various government departments concerned with national security remains to be seen.

The National Security Council leans heavily on "advice and recommendations" of the CIA director.

RABORN'S appointment came as a complete surprise. RICHARD M. HELMS, a CIA career-man who had served as deputy under JOHN A. MCCONE, had been highly recommended by MCCONE.

RABORN had "gone to bat" for MR. JOHNSON during last year's presidential campaign. In one of several TV campaign speeches he had ridiculed BARRY GOLDWATER as "not smart enough to be President."

Fortunately MR. HELMS, who took issue with the administration's Bay of Pigs decision of 1961, has been named to continue as deputy director.

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